

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE
25TH ANNIVERSARY OF AVID**HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a tremendous and extremely valuable asset to public education in the United States.

I am referring to the Advancement Via Individual Determination or AVID program that began in my hometown of San Diego 25 years ago.

Since then, it has helped hundreds of thousands of underachieving students across the United States learn the study habits and the skills needed for college. It has also helped thousands of students excel in the core subjects of reading, math, and the sciences.

Mary Catherine Swanson, a school teacher at San Diego's Clairemont High, created AVID in 1980 because she wanted to find a way to help students with mediocre academic records.

What has happened since then is nothing short of amazing.

AVID has grown from one classroom to 2,200 middle and high schools in 36 states.

The program emphasizes individual achievement while teaching new study habits. In addition, AVID encourages goal setting and works to lift self-expectations and self-esteem in students.

Nearly 260,000 students have benefited tremendously from these ground-breaking teaching methods.

Amazingly, over 95 percent of those who complete the AVID program attend college and nearly all of these students return for their sophomore year.

It is difficult to choose from the thousands of success stories produced by AVID. I am inspired each time I hear one of these stories.

Please allow me to share just a few of these stories with you today.

Some of you may remember Joanna Hayes for winning Gold in the women's 100-meter hurdles during the 2004 Summer Olympics in Greece.

Joanna's teachers remember her for her drive and determination to achieve in her classes.

Earlier in high school, however, Joanna faced a problem. She was a promising student athlete and knew she could likely land an athletic scholarship at a number of schools around the nation.

Unfortunately, her grades were low and she did not possess the academic credentials to attend her dream school, UCLA.

Joanna's high school guidance counselor told her about the AVID program and how it had helped a number of students greatly improve their grades.

She signed up and her grades began to improve dramatically.

She attended UCLA and became a world-class athlete attributing a great deal of her success to AVID.

I was also moved by the story of Truong-Son Vinh who arrived in the United States when he was 9 years old.

He fled Saigon just before it fell into the hands of the North Vietnamese in 1975. Tragically, his father was killed during the war.

Truong-Son Vinh's family ended up in San Diego where he found the AVID program.

With the help of AVID, he maintained an "A" average and excelled in math and the sciences throughout high school.

He applied the skills and study habits he learned through AVID and earned degrees in mechanical engineering and applied math from the University of California at San Diego and a master's degree from Cal. Tech.

This was just the beginning for Truong-Son Vinh.

After college, he went to work for NASA and contributed to the Space Shuttle program during the 1980s.

He later returned to school and earned a Ph.D and an MBA.

Mr. Speaker, it is stories like Joanna Hayes and Truong-Son Vinh's that have inspired me to introduce a resolution recognizing AVID and honoring the program on its 25th anniversary.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to introduce this resolution with my friend and colleague from Delaware, Congressman CASTLE.

Because of AVID, thousands of students have had the opportunity to achieve in our public schools and have had the opportunity to go on to college.

Again, this program has far exceeded anyone's expectations.

I thank Mary Catherine Swanson for having a vision and working hard to implement this vision beginning with one classroom at Clairemont High.

In addition, please allow me to thank the administrators of the AVID program for their hard work promoting the program on a national level.

Also, the work the teachers and tutors do in the AVID program is nothing short of amazing. Because of their dedication, AVID has turned the lives around of thousands of our young people.

Finally, I would just like to take a moment to recognize the students who had the courage to take on the rigorous academic track required by AVID and who had the desire to one day go to college.

I introduce this resolution today to honor AVID and all it has accomplished.

If we are to eliminate the achievement gap in the United States, I believe we need to build upon the programs that have already decreased the size of the gap successfully.

AVID is clearly one of these programs.

We will also need to turn to AVID and other proven programs already showing success in assisting our kids make gains in the areas that our nation is lagging far behind. I refer specifically to math and the sciences.

If we are to be competitive in the world economy, we need programs such as AVID to help our children excel in math, the sciences, and other key programs.

IN HONOR AND TRIBUTE OF JOAN
DIDION**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Joan Didion, established author, wife and mother. Her current novel, *The Year of Magical Thinking*, traces

her journey through one year after her husband's sudden death and her daughter's grave illness.

Joan Didion was born in Sacramento, California and graduated from the University of California at Berkeley. Didion is the author of five novels and eight books of non-fiction. Her distinguished works and publications were collected into *Slouching Towards Bethlehem* released in 1968 and *The White Album* in 1979. These books established Didion's name as an author and observer of American politics and culture with deepening personal reflections mixed with analysis.

Didion married John Gregory Dunne, also an established writer, in 1964 and together they had a daughter, Quintana. The family lived in California until moving to New York City in 1988. In 2003, their family was shocked to learn that Quintana had a fatal illness. Months after learning their daughter's bad news, John suddenly died.

They had just returned home from visiting their daughter in the hospital. Joan later learned her husband died of a massive coronary attack. Unable to bear with the grief that settled in, Joan began writing what turned into her latest book, *The Year of Magical Thinking*. This book chronicles her feelings and memories after John's death and the sickness of her daughter. Sadly, even after a brief recovery, Quintana died months after Joan finished the book.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in recognizing Joan Didion on her accomplishments as a writer and her courage as a grieving wife and mother. Her unwavering strength during difficult times should be an inspiration to all of us.

HAPPY 101ST BIRTHDAY TO
MAGGIE KATIE BROWN KIDD**HON. DAVID SCOTT**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to fulfill an annual obligation to wish a happy birthday to Ms. Maggie Katie Brown Kidd. This year, it is my distinct pleasure to wish Ms. Kidd a happy 101st birthday. Although her birth date is December 8th, she will be celebrating with her family on November 25, 2005.

Ms. Kidd has led a long life of devoted service, always lending a helping hand to any of her relatives or neighbors. She carries on the tradition of her beloved husband "Doc" who earned that nickname precisely for such a reputation. So in addition to celebrating her birthday, we are celebrating another year of her contributions to our community. To mark this occasion and her contributions I am awarding her a "Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, Maggie's children, her grandchildren and her great-grandchildren in wishing her a happy 101st birthday.